Meals In the Dark Ages.

Few references can be found as to the manner in which a meal was served and eaten during the dark ages. As near as we can learn, the soup was put in a blg bowl with ears, called a "porringer." There was seldom a spoon for each person. Those who had spoons dipped them into the porringer, and the liquid was carried directly to each mouth. Those who were without spoons drank their soup from the porringer, holding it by one of the ears, or else borrowed a spoon of their neighbor. The meats were placed in a large vessel in the center of the table. Each person present at the meal picked out with his fingers such bits as he desired. One or two knives answered for half a dozen guests. Those who were without knives borrowed from those who had them. As a rule, the guests at table used their own knives. There is no evidence that napkins were supplied to guests at this period. At any rate, no mention is made of them.

#### Tipstaves.

Tipstaves, otherwise known as "old Charlies," "Bow street runners" and "Tom tits," were formerly used in England by officers of the law, or police in private clothes, to show their authority. They were generally carried up the sleeve or in a pocket conveniently at hand, and the other would draw his tipstaff and touch the person to be arrested on the shoulder and say "I arrest you in the name of the kind just as now a policemum produces his warrant. They were generally made or and tipped with a bruss, ivory or cary ed wooden crown, whence the name tipstaff was derived. They varied in size from five to nine inches in length, The men who carried them were also called "Bow street runners." The last survivor died in 1804 at the age of eighty-five.

#### A Skin Game.

"Things are not always what they seem," said an officer of one of the big leather companies the other day at a gathering of leather men. "Once upon a time there were six good little goats in a field. They died young, like all good little goats with good skins, and the fellow who was responsible for their death shipped those skins to a tannery. When they came out the skin of one little goat was an elephant's hide, that of the second little goat was a monkey skin: that of the third was a sealskin, the fourth a sea lion, the fifth a green frog skin and the skin of the sixth came out a beautiful walrus hide."-New York Times.

Browning and an Imbrella. A correspondent writes to the London Chronicle that he once came upout Outlook. Robert Browning in Piccadilly in lively dispute with a stranger who had carried his closed umbrella over his shoulder or under his arm, with the end sticking out. Browning, walking incident. Eton had a monotonous sebehind, struck down the dangerous point with an energetic stick. "I always do it," said the poet with just indignation and in no measured tones. The man protested aloud, but Browning explained to the gathering crowd and justified himself fully. No one seemed to know how illustrious was

#### A Wonderful Voice.

the brawler.

Lablache had the most magnificent bass voice ever known to the lyric stage. It had a compass of two octaves, from E flat below to E flat above the bass staff. He was a man of prodigious size and strength, and his voice was proportioned to his physical dimensions. Nothing was able to overcome or drown it, and through the tones of the largest chorus it boomed out as lustily as though alone. More than once he broke a window pane by the strength of the vibrations caused by his monstrous voice.

#### Making Matters Worse.

The English papers tell a quaint story of Lord Leighton, the painter. Two women were looking at his picture of "Helen of Troy." "It is a horrid picture," one remarked to the painter. "I'm sorry, but it's mine," said Sir Frederick, as he then was. "Oh," said the woman, "you don't mean to say you've bought it?" "No; I painted it," was the reply. "Oh," declared the women, "you must not mind what we say. We are only saying what everybody

#### Glamour of the Footlights.

Mary Anderson Navarro talked also a good deal about the stage and told me that no one who had not lived behind the scenes could have any idea from the sun and the meon downward were shams.-Grant Duff's "Notes From a Diary."

#### Ardent Lover.

Kloseman-I'm looking for another girl. Object, matrimony. Ascum-Why, I thought Miss Pechis had accepted you. Kloseman-So she dld, but the ring I had didn't fit her, so I've got to find somebody else.—Catholic Standard and Times.

#### His Objection. "It is too bad that Bliggins wastes

his time writing poetry." "I don't mind his wasting his own time," answered the severe man, "but he has no right to waste my time reading it aloud to me,"-Washington Star.

#### A Little Help Wanted.

Old Financier-Young man, you must remember that there's always room at the top of the ladder. Applicant for Job-Um! Would you mind giving me a boost so I can see for myself?-Detroit Free Press.

Life has no blessing like a prudent friend.-Euripides

#### Ball Lightnens.

"Ball lightning," says a professor of meteorology, "is the most mysterious form of lightning. It sometimes betaves like a small animal with the most evil nature. Its shape is not always spherical, though generally so. Sometimes it is oval, sometimes it has a flame like a shell. It often looks like an orange and moves so slowly that

one can follow it for several minutes. "Once at Marseilles it entered a house like a ball of fire the size of a plate, struck the feet of a girl who was kneeling, terrified, rebounded to the ceiling, struck her feet again, then the ceifing. After bounding thus three or four times with perfect regularity it finally went through the keyhole.

"One day at Secondigny two boys, one aged twelve and the other fifteen, were playing in the street when they saw a ball like an orange rolling toward them. One touched it with his foot. It exploded, killing him instantly His comrade was thrown down, but was not hurt."-Chicago Tribune.

#### The Brotherhood of Mercy.

The "Compagnia della Misericordia" (Brotherhood of Mercy) of Florence includes men of all ranks, who attend by day or night in cases of accident, to carry the wounded to the hospital, or the dold to their burial, to nurse the sick to their houses or to assist at fires, receiving no money or food in any house the winit. The great bell of the tower tole- to call the brothers on duty at the three and even the grand duke has been see a to withdraw from table and elently respond to the summons. They repair quickly to their chapel by Santa Maria Novella, where their black glazed cutton robes are kept in locked and numbered or owers. "Black stoled. black hooded, like a dream," you may meet the procession at night, masked and of unknown identities, passing along by torchlight with a strange, wild chant, bearing the bier.

#### Great Things Yet to Be.

The world is only beginning. We have done nothing, said nothing, sung nothing. The history of the past is the history of one empire at a time. Now. several empires must compete together -among them, that miracle of conquest and greater miracle of slow becoming, set dispersedly about the world, but linked together, grasped and held by the embracing sea, our own ocean state, "imperial Britain, mighty and aware." The world will yet know greater men than Caesar and Napoleon, deeper passion and wider humanity than Shakespeare's, a music still more elemental than Wagner's, a sadder soul than Schopenhauer's, a more triumphant intellect than Nietzsche's, beauty more enthralling than Helen's, - John Davidson in London

#### Eton and Harrow, One of the Eton and Harrow school cricket matches recalls an amusing

ries of wins for some years, and one day the Harrow captain received the

Oh, ye boys of Harrow school, Of cricket ye have no knowledge; It is not cricket, but the fool, You play against Eton college.

The Harrow school poet was hunted out and commanded to send a fitting reply. This clever response made him

If, as you say, we play the fool, No wonder we were beaten. For at that game no other school Could e'er compete with Eton.

Decility In Dogs. Will people who talk about dogs ever learn to differentiate between intelligence and docility? The word "intelligent" is used almost universally in talking and writing, when people really mean docility-i. e., the readiness of the animal to accept instruction. Now, as in human beings, docility is likely to be an evidence of second rate intelligence, and the degree of intelligence is likely to appear when the animal is doing things on his own book. It makes no great difference, but to the man who tries to think accurately the constant parade of an obedient animal as one of exceptional mental ability is painful. Joseph A. Graham in Outing.

## Man has one purely rudimentary garment. The coat and trousers yield to the ravages of toll and time, but the vest ever preserves its pristine fresh-

ness. The history of a man's clothes can be written from the old vests stored away in his wardrobe. The coat he wore at graduation and his wedding trousers become but myths, but he can always show you the vests he wore upon those august occasions. The taihow utterly, hopelessly wearisome it lor who invents a style of dress that was to live in a world where all things will omit the vest has fortune and fame in store for him.

## His Audience Warmed Up.

Hi Tragerdy-Hamm made his debut as a star last night, and I hear his audfehce was very cold. Lowe Comerdy -Yes; they were at first. HI Tragerdy -Ah! Only at first? Lowe Comerdy-Yes; then they remembered they had paid to get in, and they got hot .- Catholic Standard and Times.

Dend Men's Bones. Alexander the Great, seeing Diogenes looking attentively at a parcel of human bones, asked the philosopher what he was looking for. "That which I cannot find," was the reply, "the difference between your father's bones and those of his slaves."

#### Trained.

"Don't you think her husband is naturally a gentle, patient man?" "Sometimes I think he is and sometimes I think she's got him scared."-Houston Post.

Slap an extinguisher upon your frony if you are unhappily blessed with a vein of it.-Lamb

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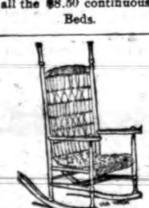
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